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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/060,791 Confirmation No. 8247
Applicant (s) : Katherine S. Clement et al.
Filed : January 29, 2002
TC/A.U. : 1711
Examiner : Truong, Duc
Title : POLYMERIZATION OF ALKYLENE OXIDES ONTO
FUNCTIONALIZED INITIATORS.

Docket No. : 60072A
Customer No. : 00109

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Sir:

RESPONSE

This is a response to the Office Action dated October 5, 2006 with a
response due date of November 5, 2006.

The Office Action states the applications contains claims directed to
patentably distinct species and Applicant is required under 35 USC 121 to elect a single
disclosed species for prosecution on the merits. The species listed in the Office Action are:

- (1) a mixture of halogenated containing initiator compound;
- (2) a mixture of an aldehyde containing initiator compound;
- (3) a mixture of ketone containing initiator compound; and
- (4) a mixture of nitro-containing compound.

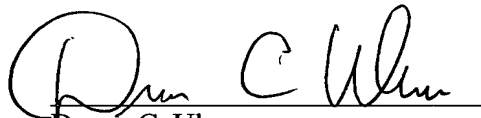
35 USC 121 refers to separate and distinct inventions. Applicants assume the Examiner is requesting Applicants to make a "provisional election of a single species prior to examination on the merits" as set forth in section 803.02 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP). If this is the case, then the Applicants understand the Examiner will examine claims directed to the elected species on their merits and upon determination the claims to the elected species are allowable, examination of further species will be conducted as per MPEP 803.02. If this understanding is correct, the Applicants make the following provisional election of species:

Applicants elect species (1) a mixture of halogenated containing initiator compound. Claims which read on the elected species are 1-6, 10-14 and 19.

If Applicants' above understanding is incorrect, then Applicants respectfully traverse the election of species requirement. The species listed in the generic claims are all base sensitive, making them ideally suited for alkoxylation by a metal cyanide catalyst complex versus traditional base catalysis.

Applicants respectfully request all the Claims be fully examined and the case be allowed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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